

had it not been protected by the courage of a regiment of northmen—the Varangian guard, which was recruited from the shores of the Baltic. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that Greece, like India, was energized during some centuries by streams of northern immigrants, whose blood in the days of Homer retained its physical vitality in later centuries, as in India, could produce an intellectual ferment, but finally became too attenuated to give change of vigour to either mind or body.

We may observe similar features in the history of Rome. The earlier Romans exhibited the simplicity and reticent doggedness of a Germanic race : their women were held in honour, were even a force in politics, and female chastity was an asset of society. Their ideals were of self-control rather than of self-abandonment ; the stern endurance of patriotic self-sacrifice was in higher esteem than artistic talents. They favoured the government by council which is so universal a sign of the individualistic ambitions of Northern Europe. But these excellencies evaporated. The republic was torn by personal jealousies in Rome, as in Greece, politics became a means of securing personal profit. It finally degenerated into Oriental despotism, under which the people accepted without question the ruler who could scheme his election to the throne. Sexual restraint appears to have vanished, and women

lost all seriousness of esteem. In the
Western
Empire an endeavour was actually
made to
crystallize society upon a caste
system. Could
we transport ourselves back to
those days.
we should find ourselves in the
conditions
which we term Asiatic. The streets
and houses
of Pompeii recall in miniature those of
Canton.
and Imperial Rome, with its
crowded, servile